

The Book of Daniel

God's Prophet and Statesman

I. Daniel's Exile to Babylon (1:1-21)

II. Nebuchadnezzar's Troublesome Dream (Chapter 2:1-23) (Part 1)

A. The *Dreams* of the King (2:1)

2 Now in the **second year** of the **reign** of **Nebuchadnezzar**,
Nebuchadnezzar had **dreams**;
and his **spirit was troubled** and his **sleep left him**.

B. The *Demand* of the King (2:2-9)

2 Then the **king** gave **orders** to call in the **magicians**, the **conjurers**,
the **sorcerers** and the **Chaldeans** to tell the **king** his **dreams**.

So they came in and stood before the **king**. **3** The **king** said to them,
"I had a **dream** and **my spirit** is **anxious** to **understand** the **dream**."

4 Then the **Chaldeans** spoke to the **king** in **Aramaic**:
"**O king, live forever!** Tell the **dream** to your **servants**,
and **we will declare** the **interpretation**."

5 The **king** replied to the **Chaldeans**, "The **command** from me **is firm**:
if you do **not** make known to me the **dream** and **its interpretation**,
you will be torn limb from limb and your **houses** will be made a **rubbish heap**.

6 But if **you declare** the **dream** and **its interpretation**,
you will receive from me **gifts** and a **reward** and **great honor**;
therefore **declare** to me the **dream** and **its interpretation**."

7 **They** answered a **second time** and said, "Let the
king tell the **dream** to his **servants**, and **we will declare** the **interpretation**."

8 The **king replied**, "I know for certain that you are **bargaining for time**,
inasmuch as **you** have seen that the **command** from me **is firm**,
9 that if **you do not** make the **dream known** to me,
there is only **one decree** for you.

For **you** have agreed together to speak **lying** and **corrupt words**
before me until the **situation** is changed; therefore **tell me** the **dream**,

that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation.”

C. The *Dilemma* of the Wise Men (2:10-13)

¹⁰ The **Chaldeans** answered the **king** and said,
“There is **not a man** on **earth** who **could declare** the **matter** for the **king**,
inasmuch as **no great king** or **ruler** has *ever* asked anything like **this**
of any **magician, conjurer** or **Chaldean**.

¹¹ Moreover, the **thing** which the **king demands** is **difficult**,
and there is **no one else** who could declare it to the **king except gods**,
whose **dwelling place** is **not** with *mortal flesh*.”

¹² Because of this the **king** became *indignant* and *very furious*
and gave **orders** to **destroy all** the **wise men** of **Babylon**.

¹³ So the **decree** went forth that the **wise men** should **be slain**;
and they looked for **Daniel** and **his friends** to **kill them**.

D. The *Diplomacy* of Daniel (2:14-16)

¹⁴ Then **Daniel** replied with **discretion** and **discernment** to **Arioch**,
the **captain** of the **king’s bodyguard**,
who had gone forth to **slay** the **wise men** of **Babylon**;
¹⁵ he said to **Arioch**, the **king’s commander**,

“For **what reason** is the **decree** from the **king so urgent**?”
Then **Arioch informed Daniel** about the **matter**.

¹⁶ So **Daniel** went in and **requested** of the **king** that he would **give him time**,
in order that **he might declare** the **interpretation** to the **king**.

E. The *Disclosure* of the Dream to Daniel (2:17-19a)

¹⁷ Then **Daniel** went to his house and **informed his friends**,
Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter,
¹⁸ so that **they** might **request compassion** from the **God of heaven**
concerning this **mystery**, so that **Daniel** and **his friends** would **not**
be **destroyed** with the **rest** of the **wise men** of **Babylon**.

¹⁹ Then the **mystery** was **revealed to Daniel** in a **night vision**.

F. The *Declaration* of Heartfelt Praise (2:19b-23)

Then **Daniel blessed** the **God of heaven**; ²⁰ **Daniel** said,

“Let the **name of God** be **blessed forever** and **ever**,
For **wisdom** and **power** belong to **Him**.

²¹ “It is **He** who **changes the times** and the **epochs**;

**He removes kings and establishes kings;
He gives wisdom to wise men
And knowledge to men of understanding.**

²²“It is **He** who **reveals** the **profound** and **hidden things**;
He knows what is in the **darkness**,
And the **light dwells** with **Him**.

²³“To **You, O God** of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,
For **You** have given me **wisdom** and **power**;
Even now **You** have **made known** to me what **we requested** of **You**,
For **You** have **made known** to us the **king’s matter**.”

Daniel - Chapter 2:1-23

Key observations →

1. The **Inward** working of God, “troubling” the spirit of the king through **dreams** (2:1-3)

The king’s heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD;
He turns it wherever **He wishes**. (Proverbs 21:1)

2. The **Intensity** of the king’s **resolve** and **anger** (2:5, 8, 12)

The king answered,..“The **command** from me is **firm**;..(2:5a)”

The **wrath** of a king is as messengers of death,
But a **wise man** will **appease it**. (Proverbs 16:14)

The king’s **wrath** is like the **roaring of a lion**,
But his **favor** is like **dew** on the **grass**. (Proverbs 19:12)

3. The **Inadequacy** of the “**collective wisdom**” of the world

Then the king gave **orders** to call in the **magicians**, the **conjurers**,
the **sorcerers** and the **Chaldeans** to tell the king his **dreams**....

The **Chaldeans** answered the king and said,
“There is **not a man on earth** who could **declare the matter** for the king,..

Moreover, the **thing** which the king demands is **difficult**, and there is
no one else who could **declare it** to the king except **gods**,
whose **dwelling place** is not with **mortal flesh**.” (2:2a, 10-11)

“The **secret things belong** to the LORD our God,
but the **things revealed belong to us** and to **our sons forever**,
that **we may observe all the words of this law**. (Deut. 29:29)

4. The *Imperative* of corporate prayer

Then **Daniel** went to his house and **informed his friends**,..
about the **matter**, so that they might **request compassion**
from the **God of heaven** concerning this **mystery**,..(2:17-18)

5. The *Illumination* of the mystery to **Daniel**

Then the **mystery** was **revealed** to **Daniel** in a **night vision**. (2:19a)

6. The *Immediate* declaration of praise to **God**

Then **Daniel** **blessed** the **God of heaven**;..

“Let the **name of God** **be blessed** forever and ever,
For **wisdom** and **power** belong to **Him**...(2:2:19b-20)

7. The *Immeasurable* and *sovereign* power of **God**

Then **Daniel** **blessed** the **God of heaven**;..

“Let the **name of God** **be blessed** forever and ever,
for **wisdom** and **power** belong to **Him**.

It is **He** who **changes** the **times** and the **epochs**;
He removes kings and **raises up kings**;

He gives wisdom to wise men
and **knowledge** to men of understanding.

It is **He** who **reveals** the **profound** and **hidden things**;
He knows what is in the **darkness**,
and the **light** dwells **with Him**...(2:19b-22)

Personal Application

As **Believers**, **we too** have had

Mysteries revealed to us

...but just as it is **written**,

“THINGS WHICH **EYE** HAS **NOT** SEEN AND **EAR** HAS **NOT** HEARD
AND **WHICH** HAVE **NOT** ENTERED THE **HEART** OF **MAN**,
ALL THAT **GOD** HAS **PREPARED** FOR **THOSE** WHO **LOVE** **HIM**.”

For **to us** **God** **revealed** **them** through the **Spirit**;
for the **Spirit** searches all things; even the **depths** of **God**.
(I Corinthians 2:9-10)

Let a man regard **us** in this manner, as **servants of Messiah**
and **stewards** of the **mysteries of God**.
(I Corinthians 4:1)

New Testament Mysteries

- 1) The *mysteries* of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 13:3-50).
- 2) The “*mystery of godliness*”—the **incarnation** (I Tim. 3:16)
(John 1:1-14)
- 3) The *mystery* of Messiah — **Messiah** as the **incarnate fullness** of the **Godhead embodied**, in whom all the **divine wisdom** for man subsists (1 Corinthians 2:7) (Colossians 2:2, 9).
- 4) The *mystery* of the **Messiah’s indwelling presence** (Colossians 1:26-27) (Galatians 2:20)
- 5) The *mystery* of **Jew and Gentile in one body**, the **body of Messiah** (the church) (Ephesians 3:3-6)
- 6) The *mystery* of **Israel’s present partial blindness** (Romans 11:25)
- 7) The *mystery* of the rapture (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-17)
- 8) The *mystery* of the **church--the bride of Messiah** (Eph. 5:23-32)
- 9) The *mystery* of iniquity (II Thessalonians 2:7-9)
- 10) The *mystery* of the seven stars (Revelation 1:20)
- 11) The *mystery* Babylon the great (Revelation 17:3-5)